

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

OMB-01 TRSE-00 /070 W

-----130904Z 027209 /22

R 130820Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3227

INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BG, IN

SUBJ: PER-FARAKKA CONFERENCE ACTIVITY; INDIAN HC MENON PRESENTS
CREDENTIALS

REF: DACCA 0072

1. A NUMBER OF INTER-RELATED EVENTS OCCURRED JANUARY 12 AS THE PRINCIPALS PREPARED FOR THE FARAKKA TALKS BEGINNING IN DACCA JANUARY 14. JAGJIVAN RAM, THE LEADER OF THE INDIAN DELEGATION, WILL ARRIVE FRIDAY MORNING, THE 14TH, AND RESUME THE DISCUSSIONS WHICH HAD BEEN SUSPENDED IN EARLY DECEMBER. SHAMSUR RAHMAN KHAN, THE BANGLADESH HIGH COMMISSIONER TO INDIA, ALSO WILL COME FROM NEW DELHI TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TALKS.

2. TO SET THE STAGE HERE IN DACCA, THE WATERDEVELOPMENT BOARD REPORTED THAT THE FLOW OF THE GANGES AT

HARDINGE BRIDGE CONTINUES TO FALL AT AN "ALARMING" RATE.

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THE FLOW WAS RECORDED JANUARY 11 AT 48,600 CUSECS, WHICH ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, IS LOWER THAN THE FLOW HAS EVER BEEN, EVEN DURING THE WORST OF THE DRY SEASONS.

3. K.P.S. MENON, THE NEW INDIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER TO BANGLADESH, PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS TO PRESIDENT SAYEM JANUARY 12 AND DECLARED THAT "IT WOULD BE HIS PLEASANT

DUTY TO WORK FOR MUTUAL FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES." LATER IN THE DAY, MENON CALLED ON ADMIRAL KHAN, WHO WILL LEAD HIS GOVERNMENT'S DELEGATION IN THE FARAKKA TALKS.

4. COMMENT: THE IMPRESSION IS WIDELY HELD IN DACCA THAT SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS WILL BE MADE AT THE TALKS AND THAT AN AGREEMENT FOR THE SHORT-TERM SHARING OF THE GANGES WATERS MAY WELL BE SIGNED. MENON'S MEETING WITH KHAN INDICATES THAT AT LEAST REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWO GOVERNMENTS ARE COMMUNICATING PERSONALLY WITH EACH OTHER, ITSELF AN IMPROVEMENT OVER RECENT RELATIONS. NO FURTHER MENTION OF BANGLADESH-INDIAN BORDER TALKS, SCHEDULED FOR THE SECOND WEEK OF JANUARY (REFTEL), HAS BEEN MADE. MASTERS

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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